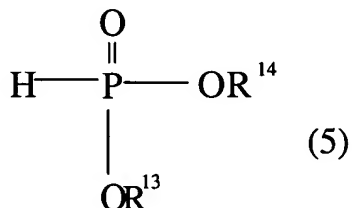
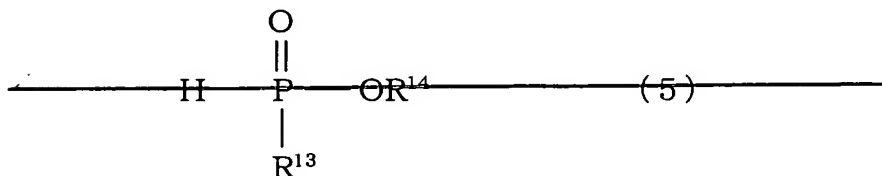
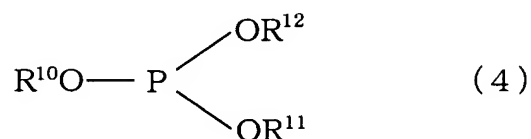


**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3, as follows:

As in the spherical annular seal member according a 15th aspect of the invention, the phosphorous ester is used by being selected from a phosphorous triester represented by the following general formula (4) and a phosphorous diester or a phosphorous monoester represented by the following general formula (5):



wherein each of  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$ , and  $R^{12}$  is an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 10, an aryl group having a carbon number of 6 to 18, or an aralkyl group consisting of an alkylene portion having a carbon number of 1 to 10 and an aryl portion having a carbon number of 6 to 18, and each of  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 10, an aryl group having a carbon number of 6 to 18, or an aralkyl group consisting of an alkylene portion having a carbon number of 1 to 10 and an aryl portion having a carbon number of 6 to 18, providing that a case where both of  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  are hydrogen atoms is excluded.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 21, as follows:

As the phosphorous ester, a phosphorous triester which is represented by the following general formula (4) or a phosphorous diester or a phosphorous monoester which is represented by the following general formula (5) is suitably used:

